

Presentation by Harold Hommes
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Wapello, Iowa – Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission Meeting
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The Iowa Department of Agriculture has been involved in this catastrophic event since its inception and we will continue to assist in recovery and rebuilding efforts to the maximum of our capabilities.

First of all, a general outline on some of the agricultural sub-sectors:

On Farm Losses:

- **Crop/Grain Impacts:**

- At height of flooding 10% of corn acres and 20% of soybean acres were yet to be planted or needed replanted. Totals 3.3 million acres
 - Some crops have been replanted, actual area lost is significantly less but we don't have good numbers on current acres lost. Some replants have since been drowned out and many replants will need a late frost to mature.
 - Likely damage to crops damaged that were not drowned out. Full impact will not be known until harvest.
 - Crop conditions have improved since mid-June
- Grain and grain storage facilities
 - Nearly ½ Million Bushels of grain was relocated prior to flooding
- Fluid inventories of antifreeze, hydraulic oil, diesel, gasoline and similar products
- Seed that was stored for pending planting
- Agro-chemicals and fertilizer inventories
- Hay and Pasture Losses
- Livestock feed inventories
- Or a combination of the above, and so on.
- 109 rural sites inundated in the Oakville Bottoms area alone

- **Livestock Losses:**

- Most livestock losses appear to be limited to the areas between Columbus Junction and Oakville with some losses further South towards the Burlington area. From information we obtained from USDA's Veterinary Services Division of APHIS, about 3100 head of lost swine have been recorded with another 500 to 1000 head estimated to be lost or are now essentially feral swine. All in all, this is much lower than earlier estimates and credit must be given to area farmers and their neighbors who moved in excess of over 37,000 animals out of harms way before the flooding.
- We are not aware of any beef cattle losses. However, we are certainly aware that there were several cattle feeding and dairy operations and their facilities that were inundated.
- The Iowa DNR has indicated that of 21 animal feeding operations, there were 14 small animal feeding operations (SAFO's) and seven permitted confined animal feeding operations (CAFO's).
- Anecdotal losses were reported scattered in other areas but those have been difficult to confirm

- **Infrastructure**

- Transportation damage
 - Barges
 - Rail
 - Secondary roads
- Processing plant damage
 - Ethanol
 - Elevators
 - Meat processing plant

All of the above limit Farmers marketing options

- **Conservation**

- Over half (55%) of Grass waterways worked to slow water and prevent erosion
- 83% of terraces worked properly
- 90% of the Grade Stabilization Structures and Sediment Control Basins worked
- Thousand of these structures were damaged
 - Early estimates indicate about \$40 million in damage to these structures

Additional information is attached

Retail Agri-business's:

- Losses seem to be heaviest in the areas of grain storage and handling facilities. Numerous upright and flat storage facilities have failed causing grain and storage capacity losses. At least two major corn processing facilities and one soy-processor are still not on-line. The East Central Cooperative at Cedar Falls has alone reported over two million dollars in losses in grain and grain storage facilities.
- Fortunately, there are no known losses of permanent storage tanks such as those used for liquid or anhydrous fertilizer. There are no known solution tanks such as those used for agro chemicals lost. There were however, some limited losses of dry fertilizer and chemicals. We have begun surveying the licensed facilities to gain a better handle on the specific losses.

Pet Rescue:

- Housed over 1200 pets @ Cedar Rapids & 300 @ Iowa City
 - Dogs, cats, iguanas, ferrets, turtles, snakes, guinea pigs, rabbits, parrots, parakeets, and horses (Iowa City had Sharks!)
- IDALS managed volunteers & operations
- ALL animals evaluated by a veterinarian
 - IVRRT was activated
 - Received shots and were micro-chipped
- Private sector donated food and equipment
 - Pet smart – Iams – Eukanuba – Purina - Local businesses
- Over 50,000 volunteer hours for Cedar Rapids Shelter
 - Salvation Army fed volunteers three meals per day
- 100% of pets at Iowa City Shelter returned to owners
- 85% of pets at Cedar Rapids Shelter returned to owners

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Other Activities:

Since the advent of this event the Department has:

- Worked with the FDA to assume jurisdiction of damaged grain and its removal
- Worked jointly with USDA – Veterinary Services to locate and remove livestock from flooded areas in Oakville area (including both live and post-mortem animals).
- We have been implementing Regulatory Discretion for affected firms
- Some standard fees are being waived or deferred
- We are fully involved in support of the Rebuild Iowa Office

As a reminder rural residents that are using their own well water for home use, livestock watering or even irrigation, that, if they know or suspect that the well-head was topped, they should have the well tested. The Director of the State's Hygienic Laboratory in Des Moines has suggested that people obtain a water testing kit. The Hygienic Labs are waiving any charges for the kits and the testing. Their number is (319) 335-4500.